

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-1442  
1314425604

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Bruns Store  
AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

321 N. Main

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES RESTRICTED  
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Charles S. Ward

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

113 E. Aspenwood Way

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21234

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 486

Folio #: 140

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

HA-1442

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two and a half story three bay asphalt shingle house with a gable roof is at 321 N. Main in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It was formerly a store. (For changes over time, see #8) The gable end of the house faces Main Street. The rear (east) gable is blind. The front gable (west) has two narrow, widely spaced 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The rest of the windows are 2/2. The entrance is in the middle bay of the front (west) elevation. A single pane transom and long 6 pane side lights surround the door. A small hood-like gable on two square posts forms a porch in front. There is also a hood over a door in the east bay of the south elevation of the main building. A single story shed addition in back (east) completes the building. There is a shed roof porch on plain posts across the south elevation of the addition.

The main block has a plain capped center chimney; an outside end stove chimney is north of center in the east elevation of the rear addition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1887      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      John F. Lingan

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built as a store by Henry B. Bruns in 1887 on land he bought for \$624 from Charles L. Dallam (58/195). The original lot went back along "Avalon Alley" (Ellendale) and included what is today Bel Air Auction Galleries. The Galleries were the Bruns livery stable. The Harford Democrat of July 22, 1887, took note of the opening of the store and "exchange stables" and called Bruns a newcomer. The store, at least, was built by John F. Lingan. It was 20' x 36'. Bruns probably lived over the store. He sold the property to Mathew Peterson in 1896 for \$1800 (87/232). Peterson sold in 1902 to David S. Mitchell for \$530 cash and a \$1000 mortgage (104/487). By 1904 the property had acquired a 15' x 30' single story back building and a 15' x 35' single story warehouse attached to the south elevation of the main building.

Frederick J. Gorrell bought the property in 1905 for \$950 cash and a mortgage of \$800 (117/83). On the 1858 Map a "J. Gorrell" had the blacksmith shop at the flat iron intersection of Main and Bond Streets. Frederick Gorrell lived until after World War II, so this cannot be the same man, but if they are related, Frederick might have run the livery stable. Sometime after 1930, the livery buildings became warehouse and storage belonging to the Beverage Warehouse east on Ellendale. Gorrell bought the double store front next door to the south in 1909 and transferred it to his daughter-in-law in 1912. Both properties remain in the family today in the female line. This property apparently was the residence of Frederick Gorrell. By 1930 it had lost its warehouse and acquired a porch on the north side and one on the south side. By this time the building must have been exclusively residential. Frederick Gorrell was dead by 1946 but his widow retained a life estate in this property (301/32) when transferring it to her son, Harry. She released the life estate in 1957 (486/138) and Harry and Leonora sold the property to Charles Ward and his wife Florence (486/140) the present owners. Mrs. Ward was left the property next door by Leonora Gorrell (Harry's wife) in 1964 (will 35/382). It is currently vacant and for sale.

The building has lost its back building, its north porch, and its front (west) porch has been reduced from three bays to one. This is probably the shape of the original structure.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harford Democrat  
1904, 1930 Sanborn Maps

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

This property occupies parcel #283 in the Town of Bel Air, 35' x 147'

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

31 October 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET &amp; NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 STATE CIRCLE SHAW HOUSE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET Individual Structure Survey Form		SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1442 NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER: UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP: PRESENT FORMAL NAME: House	
COUNTY: Harford TOWN: Bel Air		ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Bruns Store	
LOCATION: 321 N. Main		PRESENT USE: rental ORIGINAL USE: store & residence ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:	
COMMON NAME: House		BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: John F. Ligan	
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: private residence		PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent( ) Good( ) Fair(X) Poor( )	
OWNER: Charles S. Ward ADDRESS: 113 E. Aspenwood Way Baltimore, Maryland 21231		THEME: Architecture STYLE: Vernacular	
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes( ) No( ) Restricted(X)		DATE BUILT: 1887	
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local(X) State( ) National( )			
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System 1. Foundation: Stone(X) Brick( ) Concrete( ) Concrete Block( ) 2. Wall Structure A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam( ) Balloon( ) B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick( ) Stone( ) Concrete( ) Concrete Block( ) C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other: 3. Wall Covering: Clapboard( ) Board and Batten( ) Wood Shingle( ) Shiplap( ) Novelty( ) Stucco( ) Sheet Metal( ) Aluminum( ) Asphalt Shingle(X) Brick Veneer( ) Stone Veneer( ) Bonding Pattern: Other: 4. Roof Structure A. Truss: Wood( ) Iron( ) Steel( ) Concrete( ) B. Other: 5. Roof Covering: Slate( ) Wood Shingle( ) Asphalt Shingle( ) Sheet Metal( ) Built Up( ) Rolled( ) Tile( ) Other: 6. Engineering Structure: 7. Other: Appendages: Porches(X) Towers( ) Cupolas( ) Dormers( ) Chimneys(X) Sheds( ) Ells( ) Wings( ) Other: Roof Style: Gable(X) Hip( ) Shed( ) Flat( ) Mansard( ) Gambrel( ) Jerkinhead( ) Saw Tooth( ) With Monitor( ) With Bellcast( ) With Parapet( ) With False Front( ) Other: Number of Stories: 2½ Number of Bays: 3 Approximate Dimensions: 20' x 36' Entrance Location: N. Main			
THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat( ) Zoning(X) Roads( ) Development(X) Deterioration(X) Alteration( ) Other:		LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive( ) Negative( ) Mixed( ) Other:	

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

windows 2/2 plain surround  
 front gable 2 narrow 1/1 window  
 front porch, middle bay, gable roof on plain post  
 entrance, middle bay: single pane transom, 6 pane side lights  
 single story shed addition on back, shed roof porch  
 on plain posts on back addition south  
 hood over east bay entrance in s elev. of main bldg.  
 plain center chimney in main block, outside stove chimney  
 on e elev. of shed addition

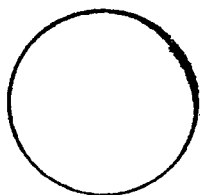
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Bruns store 1887 now residential

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane( )Woodland( )Scattered Buildings( )  
 Moderately Built Up( )Densely Built Up( )  
 Residential(x)Commercial(x)  
 Agricultural( )Industrial( )  
 Roadside Strip Development( )  
 Other:

Marilynn Larew

RECORDED BY:  
 Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:  
 24 October 1979

DATE RECORDED:

TITLE: 321 N. Main

486/140                    30 July 1957  
Harry E. Gorrell & Leonora  
                             to  
Charles S. Ward & Florence

486/138                    17 July 1957  
Ladora Gorrell, widow, of Fayette County, Pa  
release of life estate in lands devised  
by Frederick Gorrell (will 19/485)

301/32                    29 August 1946  
Ladora Gorrell, widow  
                             to  
Harry E. Gorrell & Leonora  
she retains a life estate

117/83                    6 December 1905  
David S. Mitchell & Annie  
                             to  
Frederick J. Gorrell  
\$950 & mortgage of \$800

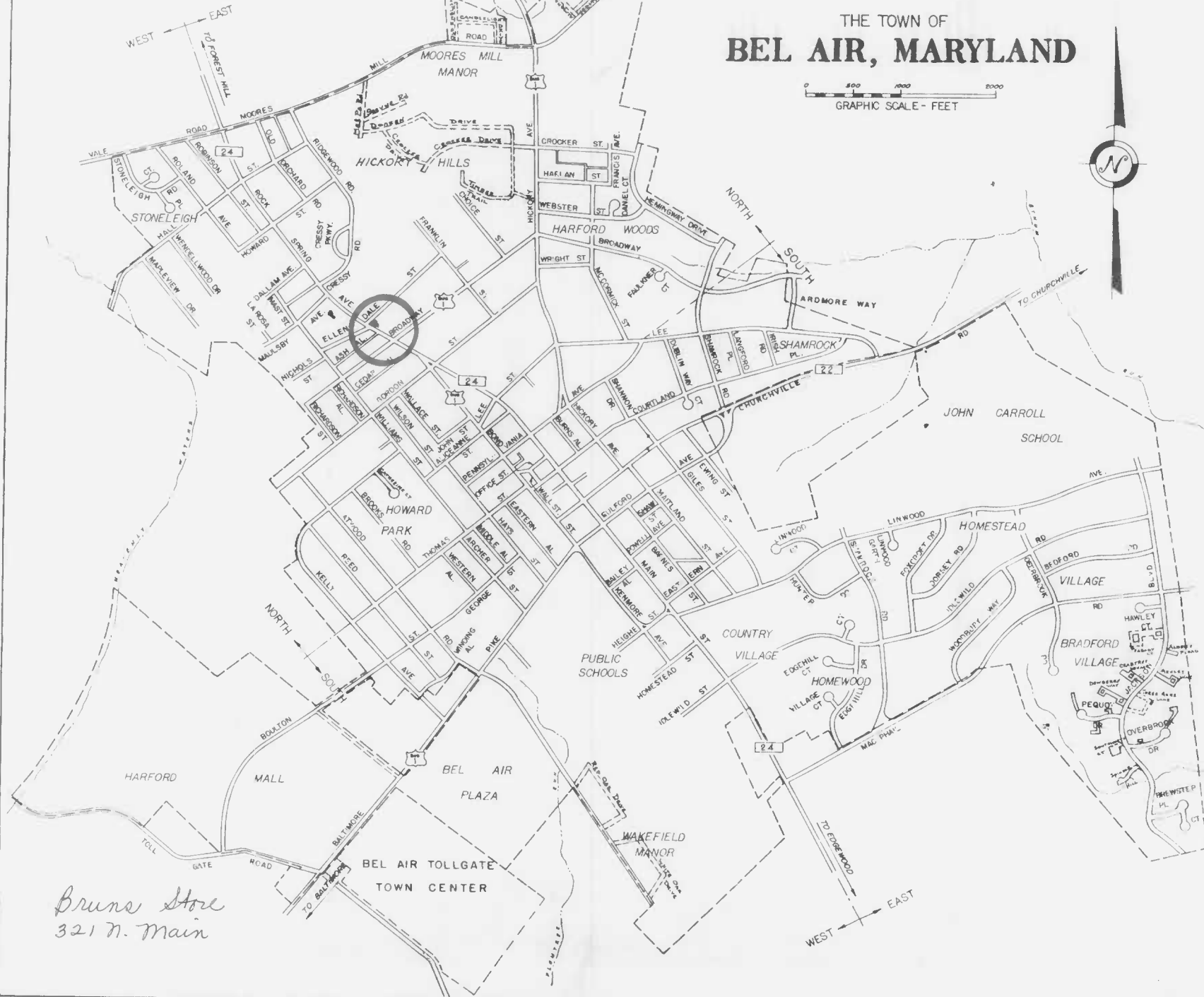
104/487                   10 October 1902  
Mathew H. Peterson & Retta  
                             to  
David S. Mitchell & Annie  
\$530 & \$1000 mortgage

87/232                    13 February 1896  
Henry B. Bruns & Kate  
                             to  
Mathew Peterson  
\$1800

58/195                    26 March 1887  
Charles L. Dallam  
                             to  
Henry B. Bruns  
\$624  
2 lots: this one and the back lot on  
"Avalon Allen" (Ellendale)

# THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

0 500 1000 2000  
GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



HA-1442

Bruno Store  
321 N. Main









W 7-1442 Bruce Store, 321 N Main, Belfast  
e 4 n elev  
Mr. Larew, 1979